

Grand opening of The Seattle Public Library's Central Library
10:30 a.m. Sunday, May 23, 2004
Central Library, Fourth Avenue entrance

"I would like to take a moment to thank Senator Maria Cantwell for attending today's grand opening and for continuing her support of public libraries. You may not know that one of Senator Cantwell's earliest accomplishments was leading a successful campaign to build a new library in Mountlake Terrace. We appreciate her commitment to lifelong learning and thank you so much for being here today, Senator."

"A library is a place, a palace where the lofty spirits of all nations and generations meet." – Samuel Niger (1883-1956)

- I've had many fantastic opportunities during my 10-plus years as a city council member, but being able to participate in this dedication of our new Central Library is certainly one of the highlights.
- The public library has been important to every aspect of my life – as a Councilmember and in my past, during my days as a mother, schoolteacher, business owner and grandmother, in that order!
- I feel lucky to have toured this building on more than one occasion. Each visit adds to my excitement about this wonderful tribute to our community.
- This breathtakingly beautiful structure isn't just an example of incredible architecture. This is a library, where people can learn and grow.
- There are so many places in the library to talk about, but I am very enthusiastic about The Norcliffe Foundation Living Room, located on Level 3 near the Fifth Avenue entrance.
- As a downtown worker, sometimes I just need a break during the day and get away from City Hall. This will be the perfect place to take one. I can grab coffee or a snack at the FareStart Library Cafe, buy a gift for a friend at the FriendShop or relax in a comfortable chair with my favorite book.
- On behalf of my colleagues on the city council and those who came before us, I joyously help dedicate this building.